

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Official Action dated December 27, 2004. Claims 1, 5 and 7 have been amended. Claims 1-11 and 15 remain in the application with Claims 1, 5 and 7 being the only independent claims. Favorable reconsideration, in view of the above amendments and accompanying remarks, is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 2 of the Official Action, the Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3, 7, 9 and 10 under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 1,572,724 to Johnson. These rejections are respectfully traversed in light of the amendments to the claims and/or for the following reasons.

As amended Claim 1 now defines the invention as a casting apparatus having a moveable mold section and a stationary mold section, wherein when the moveable mold section is in a closed position and in contact with the stationary mold section a part shape cavity is defined; and a manually operated extraction member wholly self-contained within the stationary mold section during the casting of a cast part whereby access to said extraction member is allowed only when the moveable mold section is in an open position and spaced apart from contact with the stationary mold section, the extraction member disposed adjacent the part shape cavity and releasably secured to the stationary mold section so as to be selectively moveable between a first position, wherein the manually operated extraction member cooperates with the mold sections to form a part of the part shape cavity, and a second position, wherein the manually operated extraction member is operative to engage and eject a stuck cast part from the stationary mold section of the part shape cavity. None of the cited references, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests such a casting apparatus as claimed in Claim 1.

Specifically, U.S. Patent No. 1,572,724 to Johnson discloses a manually operable device in the form of a hand lever 60. As discussed in Johnson page 2, right column lines 78-86, the lever 60 at a point 62 is connected by means of the link 63 with the lever 53, which is integral with the lever 52 secured in the shaft, so that, upon raising of the lever 60, the knock-out head 35 will be elevated in the same manner as when actuated by the automatic device. Johnson does not disclose or suggest a casting

apparatus having a manually operated extraction member wholly self-contained within the stationary mold section during the casting of a cast part whereby access to said extraction member is allowed only when the moveable mold section is in an open position and spaced apart from contact with the stationary mold section, the extraction member disposed adjacent the part shape cavity and releasably secured to the stationary mold section so as to be selectively moveable between a first position, wherein the manually operated extraction member cooperates with the mold sections to form a part of the part shape cavity, and a second position, wherein the manually operated extraction member is operative to engage and eject a stuck cast part from the stationary mold section of the part shape cavity, as claimed in Claim 1. Thus, it is believed that Claim 1, along with dependent Claims 2, 3, 4 and 15, are patentable over the cited references.

Claim 7 has been amended in a similar manner to that of Claim 1. Thus, for those reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 1, it is believed that Claim 7, along with dependent Claims 8, 9, 10 and 11, are patentable over the cited references.

In paragraph 5 of the Official Action, the Examiner has rejected Claims 4-6, 8 11 and 15 under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,807,682 to Catinella et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed in light of the amendments to the claims and/or for the following reasons.

As discussed by the Examiner in paragraph 5 of the Official Action, Johnson fails to teach multiple extraction devices and a threaded fastener so the Examiner uses Catinella's teachings of threaded fasteners to modify Johnson and states that the multiple extraction devices would increase the area of ejection of the part from the cavity. However, Claim 5 has been amended in a similar manner to that of Claim 1. Thus, assuming it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Johnson with the teachings of Catinella the modified Johnson reference would not disclose or suggest a casting apparatus having a manually operated extraction member wholly self-contained within a cavity of the stationary mold section during the casting of a cast part whereby access to said extraction member is allowed only when the

moveable mold section is in an open position and spaced apart from contact with the stationary mold section, the manually operated extraction member disposed adjacent the part shape cavity and releasably secured to the stationary mold section so as to be selectively moveable between a first position, wherein the manually operated extraction member cooperates with the mold sections to form a part of the part shape cavity, and a second position, wherein the manually operated extraction member is operative to engage and eject a stuck cast part from the stationary mold section of the part shape cavity, as claimed in Claim 5. Thus, it is believed that Claim 5, along with dependent Claim 6, are patentable over the cited references. With respect to the rejection of dependent Claims 4, 8, 11 and 15, these claims are believed to be patentable for those reasons discussed above with respect to their associated independent claims.

In view of the above amendments and accompanying remarks, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner does not believe that the above remarks and amendments to the claims place the application in condition for allowance, or if the Examiner has any comments or suggestions, it is requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' attorney at (419) 255-5900 to discuss the application prior to the issuance of a final action by the Examiner.